

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 H-03 RSC-01 DRC-01 /020 W

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R 271757Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9163

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, CDES: FRANK TERUGGI JR.

SUBJ: TERUGGI CASE: LETTER FROM INTERIOR MINISTER

REF: A) STATE 105694, B) STATE 108808, C) SANTIAGO 2950

1. SUMMARY. MIN INTERIOR BONILLA HAS REPLIED UNDER DATE JUNE 24 TO MY FURTHER QUERY RE TERUGGI CASE (REFTEL C) WITH LETTER STATING FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF TERUGGI DEATH HAS TURNED UP NO NEW FACTS AND INVESTIGATION TERMINATED ON UNDERSTANDING IT WILL BE REOPENED IF NEW EVIDENCE BECOMES AVAILABLE. BONILLA DISMISSES ANONYMOUS LETTER WHICH PURPORTS TO RELATE EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF TORTURE OF "AMERICAN DETAINEE NAMED FRANK" AS UNHELPFUL IN THE INVESTIGATION AND FALSE AND SENSATIONALIZED IN CONTENT. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT IN RESPONSE REFTELS I RAISED WITH BONILLA QUESTION OF FURTHER INVESTIGATION HE HAD PROMISED TO MAKE IN THIS CASE AND PASSED HIM COPY OF DOCUMENT TERUGGI SR. RECEIVED, PURPORTEDLY FROM DUTCH CONSUL SANTIAGO (REFTEL C). FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF BONILLA'S LETTER OF REPLY TO ME DATED JUNE 24 (WE ATTACH NO SIGNIFICANCE TO HIS INEXPLICABLE ATTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENT IN QUESTION TO "A CHILEAN WOMAN BACK IN US FROM SANTIAGO"):

3. MINISTER HAS READ WITH ATTENTION AND INTEREST MY NOTE MAY 28, IN WHICH I TRANSMITTED LETTER WHICH TERUGGI'S FATHER RECEIVED FROM CHILEAN WOMAN BACK IN US FROM SANTIAGO (SIC). MINISTER HAS ACCORDED HIGHEST PRIORITY TO INVESTIGATION OF CASE

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AND REMAINS OPEN AND WILLING TO RECEIVE ANY INFORMATION WHICH

COULD PROVIDE MORE FACTS TO ILLUMINATE THIS LENGTHY INQUIRY.

4. MINISTER RECALLS THAT IN DAYS WHEN LAMENTABLE DEATH TOOK PLACE COUNTRY WAS UNDERGOING ANGUISHED PERIOD OF INTERNAL WARFARE AND THAT MANY INDIVIDUALS, BOTH FOREIGN AND CHILEAN, WERE DETAINED AS MEASURE OF SECURITY. AT THAT TIME, SNIPERS CAUSED NUMEROUS DEATHS NOT ONLY AMONG ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL BUT ALSO MANY CIVILIANS, INNOCENT BYSTANDERS WHO SACRIFICED USELESSLY BY THESE EXTREMISTS.

5. DESPITE TASKS UNDERTAKEN AND INTENSIVE AND ABSOLUTELY OBJECTIVE INVESTIGATIONS COMPLETED, TO DATE IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE CLEAR UP CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH TERUGGI DIED. HAVING EXHAUSTED ALL POSSIBILITIES AND FOLLOWED UP ALL CLUES, MINISTER CAN ONLY DEEM INVESTIGATION TERMINATED, PROVIDING HOWEVER THAT SHOULD ANY NEW INFORMATION TURN UP WHICH ALLOWS FACTS TO BE CLARIFIED, INVESTIGATION WILL BE IMMEDIATELY REOPENED.

6. UNFORTUNATELY FOR THIS INVESTIGATION, LETTER RECEIVED BY TERUGGI'S FATHER IS NOT A DOCUMENT WHICH CONTRIBUTES IN ANY FASHION TO THIS PROCESS, SINCE IT IS AN ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION PRESENTED BY ONE OF THOUSANDS OF WOMEN IN COUNTRY AND IN WHICH SERIES OF HAPPENINGS DESCRIBED WHOSE AUTHENTICITY, IN HONESTY AND FRANKNESS, MINISTER MUST DENY, SINCE APPARENTLY ITS ONLY MOTIVE IS TO ADD SENSATIONAL NOTE AND CONVEY IMAGE OF BRUTALITY AND INHUMANITY WHICH ARE FAR FROM FACTS OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE COUNTRY.

7. ARGUMENT WHICH TOTALLY DESTROYS ALLEGATIONS OF THIS CHILEAN IS FURNISHED BY WHAT WAS SAID BY ALL THOSE ALIENS WHO FOR SOME REASON WERE DETAINED IN NATIONAL STADIUM AT TIME AND AMONG WHOM IS HATHAWAY, WHO WAS DETAINED JOINTLY WITH TERUGGI, AND WHO AT NO TIME DECLARED THEY HAD BEEN VICTIMS OF TORTURE OR BEATINGS, SUCH AS SAID CHILEAN DESCRIBES WITH AIM OF DEFAMING PRESENT GOVT.

8. MINISTER ENDS WITH COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE, REITERATING HIS DISPOSITION AND DESIRE THAT MUTUAL EFFORT WILL ALLOW THIS UNFORTUNATE CASE TO BE DEFINITELY CLARIFIED.

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9. IN ACKNOWLEDGING LETTER FROM MINISTER, I AM STATING THAT UNLESS HE NOTIFIES ME TO CONTRARY I ASSUME THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO RELEASE BY DEPT OF TEXT TO CONGRESSMEN, FAMILY OR OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD THIS APPEAR DESIRABLE. SENDING TEXT BONILLA LETTER SEPTTEL. POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTIA03757
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740171-0109
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974068/aaaaagju.tel
Line Count: 113
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Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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